

National Urbanization Monitoring Assessment (NUMA)

Dave Hester

**Geographic Analysis and Monitoring Program
Rocky Mountain Geographic Science Center**

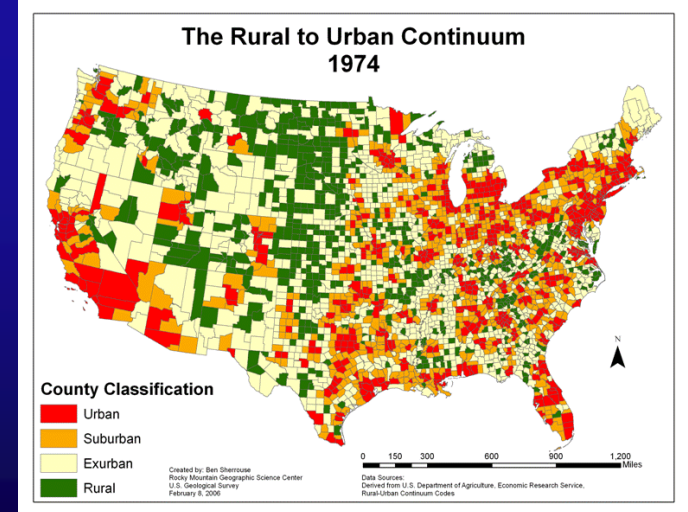
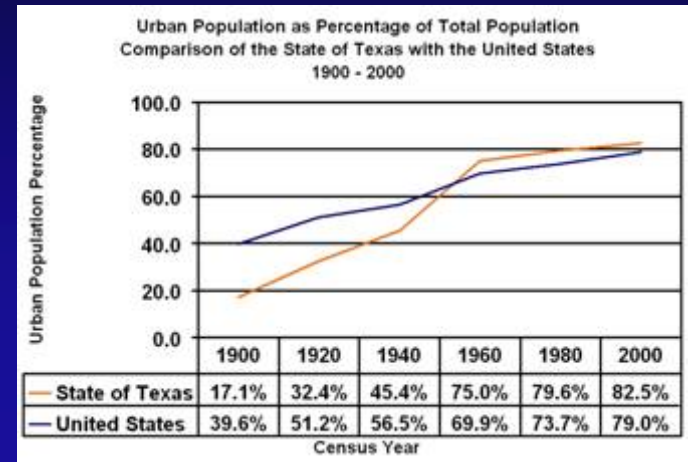
NUMA Geographic Perspective

- **Five Themes of Geography**
 - **Location**
 - People, Places, Time, Direction, and Distance
 - **Places**
 - Human and Physical characteristics
 - **Human-Environmental Interactions**
 - Humans modify the environment
 - Humans depend on the environment
 - **Movement**
 - People, Goods, and Ideas
 - **Regions**
 - Formal, Functional, and Perceived



NUMA Research Issues

- U.S. Population composition becoming increasingly more urban
- Urban land growth rate exceeding urban population growth
- Majority of urban growth spreading into rural landscapes
- Relatively cheap agricultural land encourages development on the urban fringe



Research Assumptions

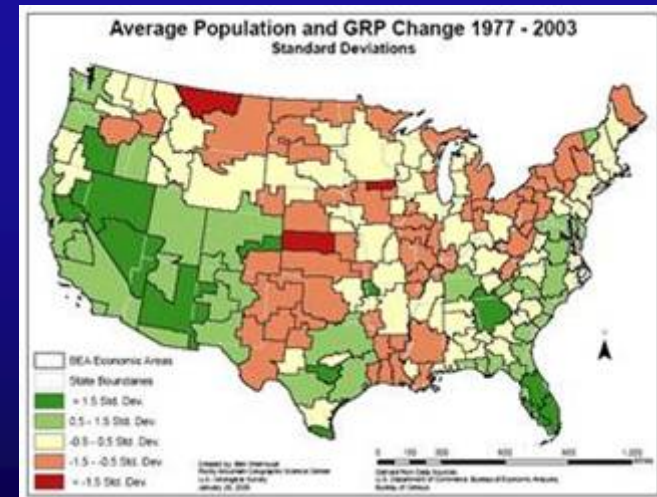
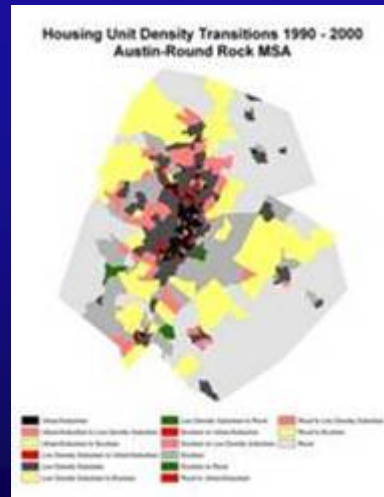
- Metropolitan areas continue to be the economic engines driving regional urbanization
- Urban form follows densification thresholds and infrastructure development
- Urbanization is occurring faster in exurbia as compared to rural, suburban, & urban areas
- Regions with the highest socioeconomic and demographic growth rates should be the fastest urbanization engines

Fastest growing economies

RANKING BASED ON GROWTH RATE OF GMP*

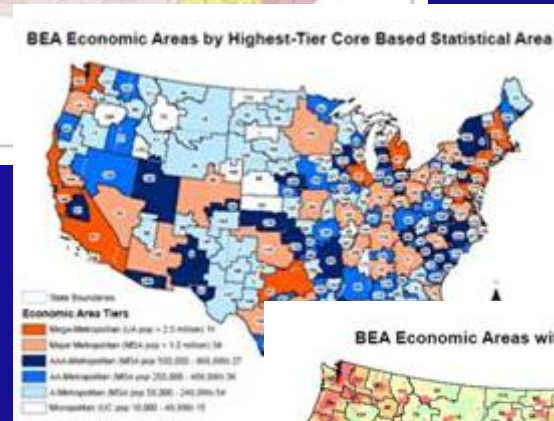
RANK	METRO AREA	IN U.S. BILLIONS	1990	2000	INCREASE
1.	Las Vegas, NV	20.5	54.6	166.3%	
2.	Austin-San Marcos, TX	18.8	48.2	156.4%	
3.	Laredo, TX	2.7	6.6	144.4%	
4.	Provo-Orem, UT	3.4	8.3	144.1%	
5.	Boise, ID	5.9	14.4	144.1%	
6.	Phoenix-Mesa, AZ	47.3	114.2	141.4%	
7.	Colorado Springs, CO	7.3	17.6	141.1%	
8.	Myrtle Beach, SC	2.9	6.9	137.9%	
9.	Fort Collins-Loveland, CO	3.5	8.3	137.1%	
10.	Greeley, CO	2.2	5.2	136.4%	
11.	Yolo, CA	3.9	8.9	128.2%	
12.	Albuquerque, NM	11.3	25.6	126.5%	
13.	Tucson, AZ	1.2	2.7	125.0%	
14.	Corvallis, OR	1.2	2.7	125.0%	
15.	Atlanta, GA	73.4	164.2	123.7%	
16.	Grand Junction, CO	1.7	3.8	123.5%	
17.	Sioux Falls, SD	3.6	8.0	122.2%	
18.	Boulder-Longmont, CO	5.4	12.0	122.2%	
19.	Salt Lake City-Ogden, UT	21.1	46.4	119.9%	
20.	Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR	4.1	9.0	119.5%	

* GROSS METROPOLITAN PRODUCT



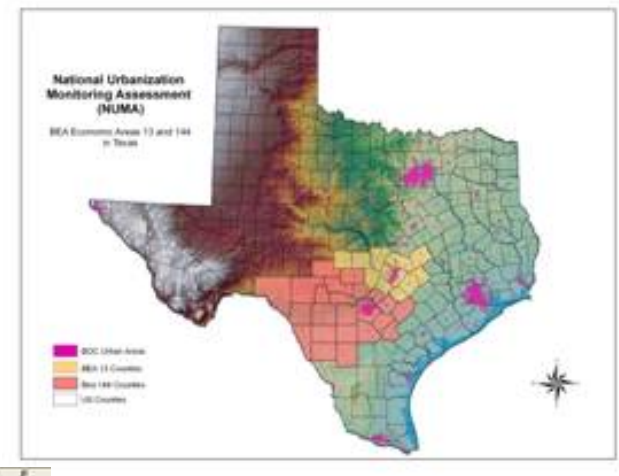
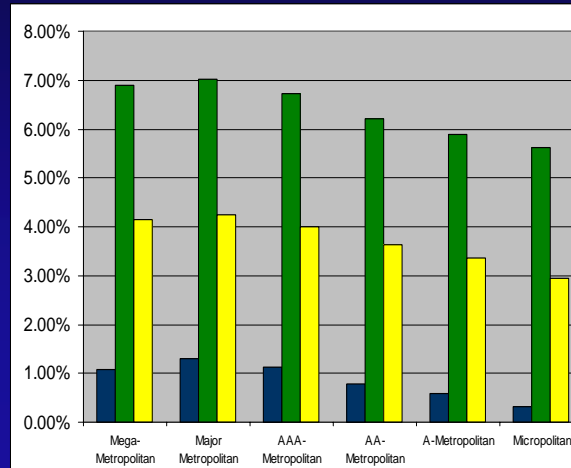
Research Hypotheses

- Do urban growth rates, urban form patterns, and land use transitions vary between Economic Areas?
- Does urbanization vary depending on the primary Core-Based Statistical Area within an Economic Area?
- Can land use transition probabilities be used to forecast rural-to-urban transformations?
- Are specific Economic Areas and urban forms causing greater ecological and societal impacts?

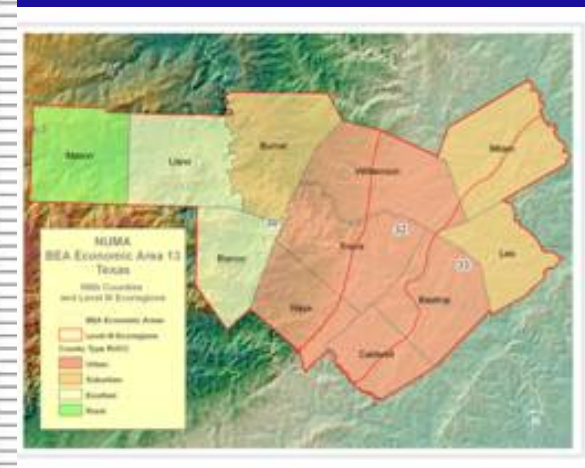


Research Methodology

- Classify Economic Areas based on Core-Based Statistical Area tiers
- Stratify Economic Areas using Average Population/Gross Regional Product rates
- Select Areas of Interest
 - Austin and San Antonio, Texas Economic Areas
- Subdivide Economic Areas
 - Rural-to-Urban Continuum Codes
- Extract indicators from Metrics database
- Conduct Land Use Trend Analysis and compute Human migratory paths



A		B		C		D		E	
1	Node	2	Node	3	Node	4	Node	5	Node
2	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	3	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	4	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	5	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	6	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
3	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	4	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	5	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	6	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	7	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
4	Austin, TX	5	Austin, TX	6	Austin, TX	7	Austin, TX	8	Austin, TX
5	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	6	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	7	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	8	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	9	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ
6	Colorado Springs, CO	7	Colorado Springs, CO	8	Colorado Springs, CO	9	Colorado Springs, CO	10	Colorado Springs, CO
7	McAllen-Edinburg-Freer, TX	8	McAllen-Edinburg-Freer, TX	9	McAllen-Edinburg-Freer, TX	10	McAllen-Edinburg-Freer, TX	11	McAllen-Edinburg-Freer, TX
8	Reno-Sparks, NV	9	Reno-Sparks, NV	10	Reno-Sparks, NV	11	Reno-Sparks, NV	12	Reno-Sparks, NV
9	Dayton, OH	10	Dayton, OH	11	Dayton, OH	12	Dayton, OH	13	Dayton, OH
10	Portland-Vancouver, OR	11	Portland-Vancouver, OR	12	Portland-Vancouver, OR	13	Portland-Vancouver, OR	14	Portland-Vancouver, OR
11	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Dunwoody, GA	12	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Dunwoody, GA	13	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Dunwoody, GA	14	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Dunwoody, GA	15	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Dunwoody, GA
12	Colorado Springs, CO	13	Colorado Springs, CO	14	Colorado Springs, CO	15	Colorado Springs, CO	16	Colorado Springs, CO
13	Sacramento-Sutter-Yuba, CA	14	Sacramento-Sutter-Yuba, CA	15	Sacramento-Sutter-Yuba, CA	16	Sacramento-Sutter-Yuba, CA	17	Sacramento-Sutter-Yuba, CA
14	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	15	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	16	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	17	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	18	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL
15	Flagstaff, AZ	16	Flagstaff, AZ	17	Flagstaff, AZ	18	Flagstaff, AZ	19	Flagstaff, AZ
16	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	17	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	18	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	19	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	20	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA
17	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	18	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	19	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	20	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	21	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL
18	Tucson, AZ	19	Tucson, AZ	20	Tucson, AZ	21	Tucson, AZ	22	Tucson, AZ
19	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	20	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	21	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	22	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	23	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX
20	Orlando, FL	21	Orlando, FL	22	Orlando, FL	23	Orlando, FL	24	Orlando, FL
21	Denver-Aurora-Boulder, CO	22	Denver-Aurora-Boulder, CO	23	Denver-Aurora-Boulder, CO	24	Denver-Aurora-Boulder, CO	25	Denver-Aurora-Boulder, CO
22	Boise City, ID	23	Boise City, ID	24	Boise City, ID	25	Boise City, ID	26	Boise City, ID
23	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	24	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	25	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	26	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	27	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
24	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	25	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	26	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	27	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	28	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
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27	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	28	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	29	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	30	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	31	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
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31	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	32	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	33	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	34	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	35	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
32	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	33	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	34	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	35	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	36	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
33	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	34	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	35	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	36	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	37	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
34	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	35	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	36	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	37	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	38	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
35	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	36	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	37	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	38	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	39	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
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37	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	38	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	39	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	40	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	41	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
38	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	39	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	40	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	41	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	42	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
39	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	40	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	41	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	42	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	43	San Jose-San Francisco, CA
40	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	41	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	42	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	43	San Jose-San Francisco, CA	44	San Jose-San Francisco, CA



FY06 Project Funding

- **NUMA Budget**

- **Geographic Analysis and Monitoring SIR**

- **\$381K Total**

- **\$255K: Government FTE Salaries**
 - **\$76K: SAIC Contractor**
 - **\$10K: Discretionary Operating Expenses**
 - **\$41K: RMGSC Overhead Cost Assessment**

- **Edwards-Trinity CR Integrated Science Partnership**

- **\$10K Geography allocation**

- **NUMA Team**

- **RMGSC (3) Government FTE's and (1) SAIC Contractor**

- **GAM NUMA Statement of Intent**

- **(5) Geographic Research Subtasks**



Urbanization Logical Model

- Agent
- Driver
- Process
- Pressure
- Action
- State
- Pattern

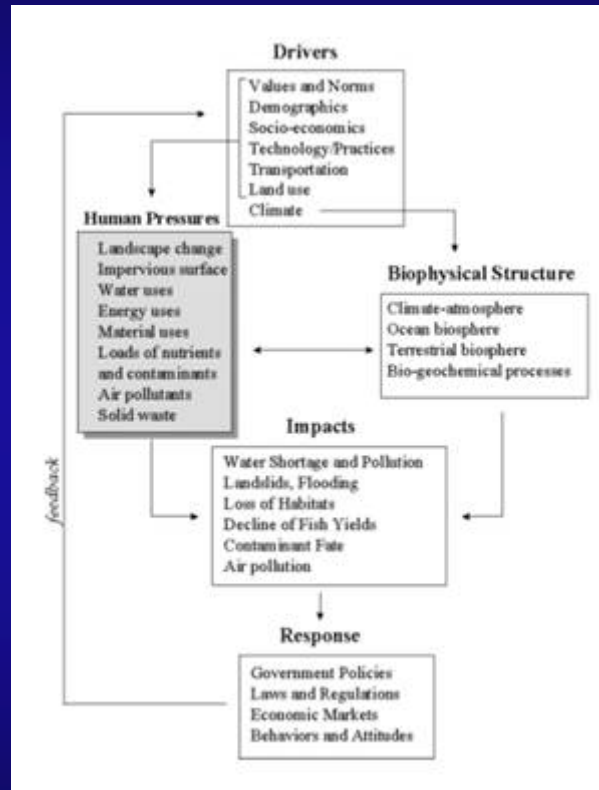
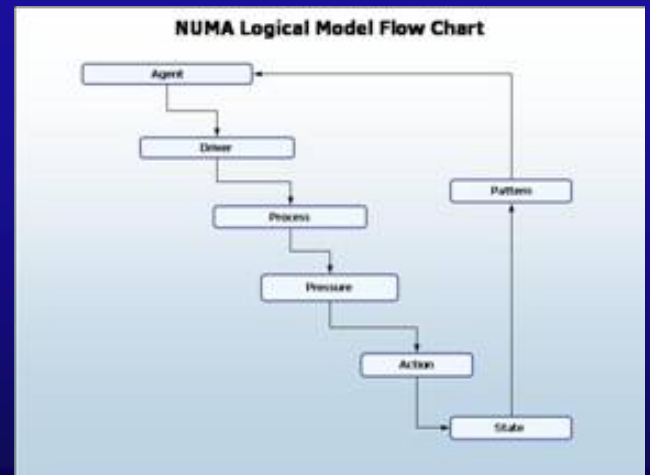
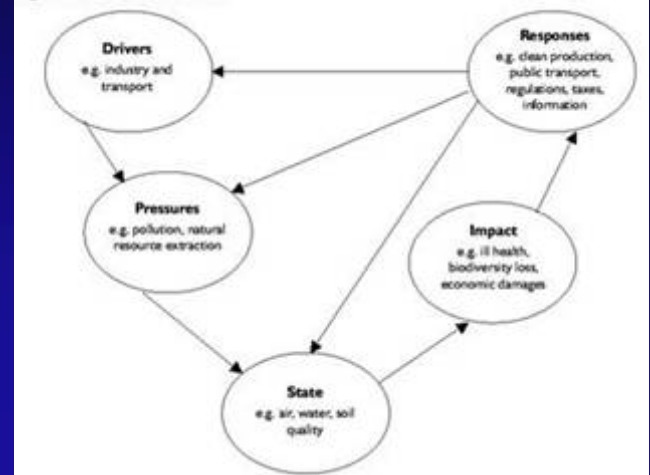


Figure 5. The DPSIR framework



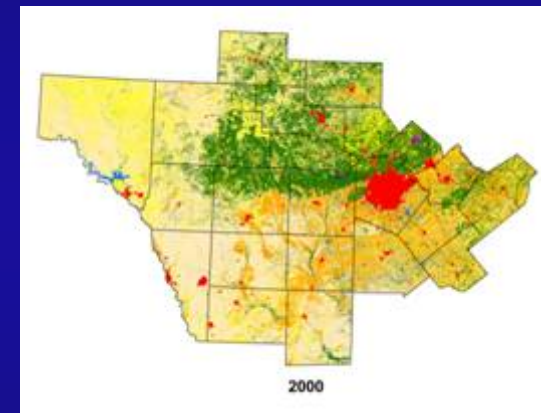
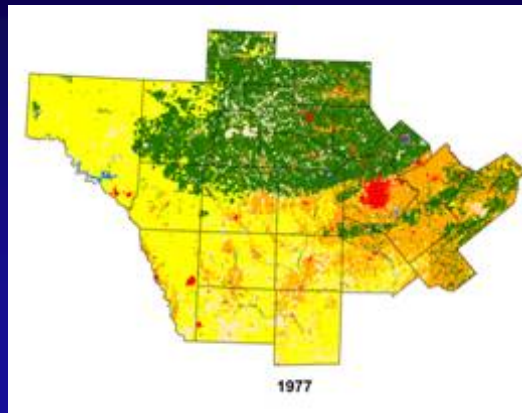
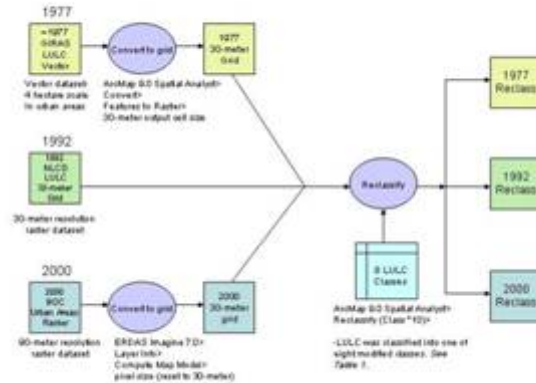
Monitoring Urbanization

- Physical Urbanization Model
- Inventoried ~2600 indicators for monitoring landscape change
- Created Metrics Access database
- Provide capability to query Metrics database for urbanization monitoring indicators

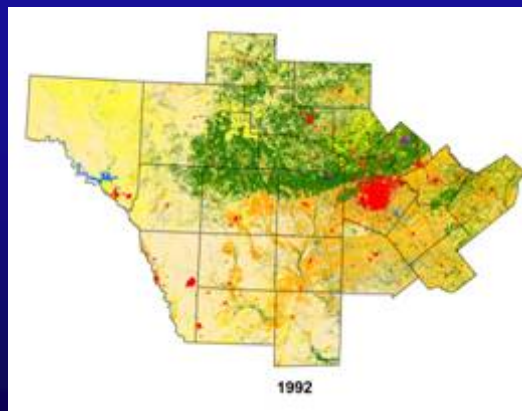
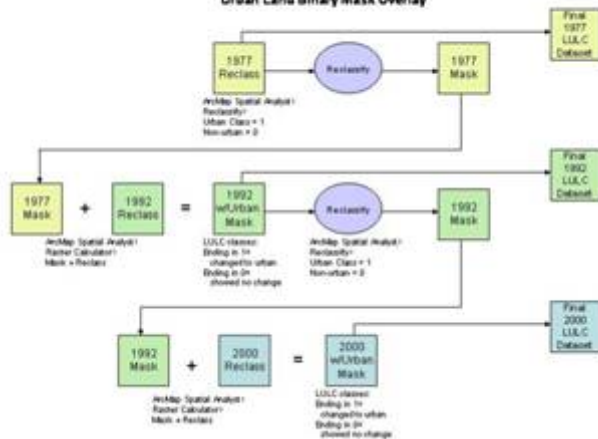


Land Use Trend Analysis

National Urbanization Monitoring Assessment
Land Use and Land Cover Data Standardization
(DIRAS, NLCD, and BOC Urban Areas Data)

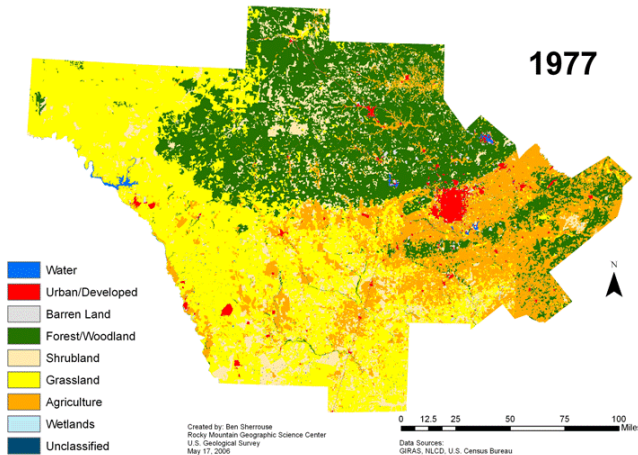


National Urbanization Monitoring Assessment
Temporal Urban Decay Correction
Urban Land Binary Mask Overlay

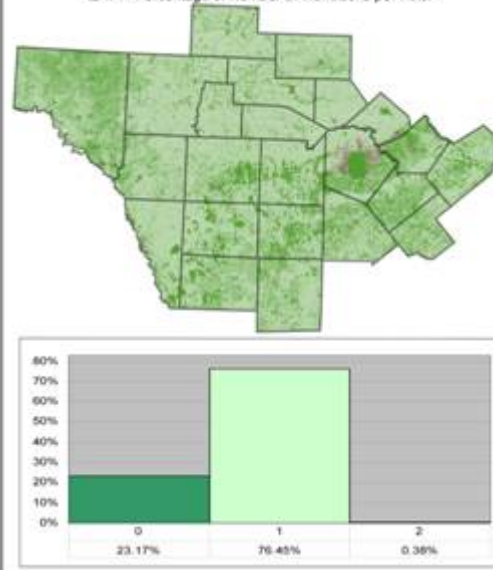


Land Use Trends – San Antonio

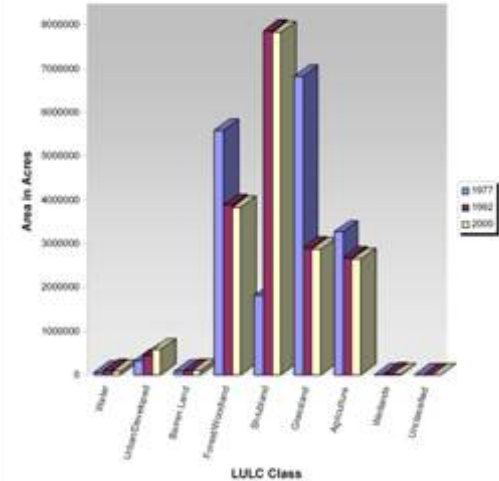
Economic Area 144, San Antonio, TX: LULC Change 1977 - 2000



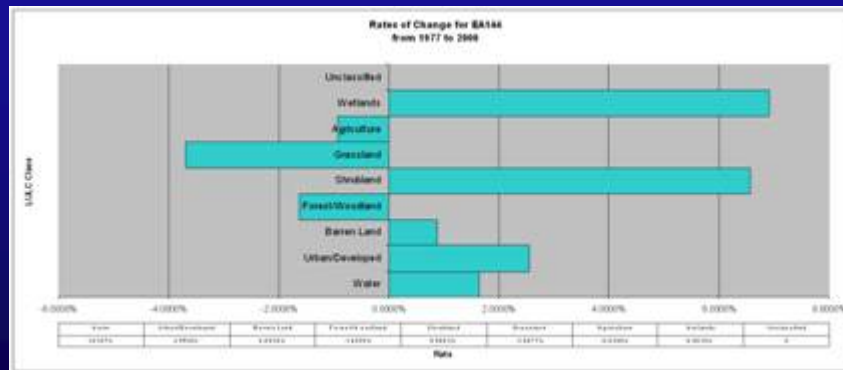
EA144 Percentage of Number of Transitions per Pixel



LULC Comparison for EA144
Using GRAS, 1992 NLCD, and 2000 BOC Urban Area Data

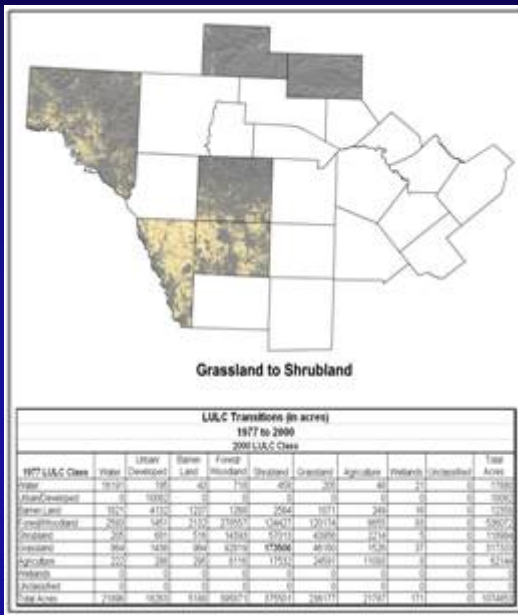
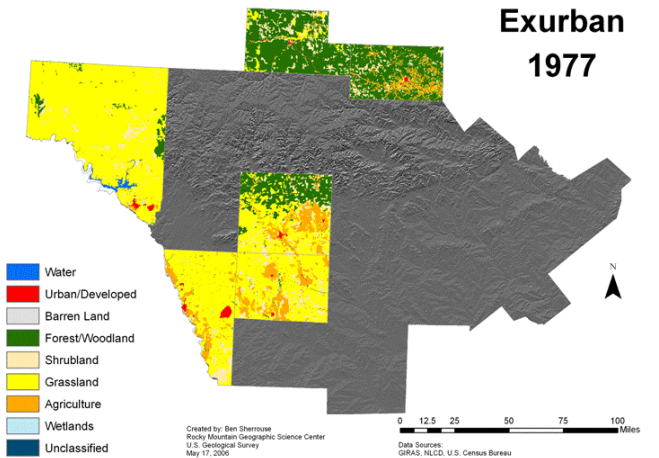


Rate of Change for EA144
from 1977 to 2000

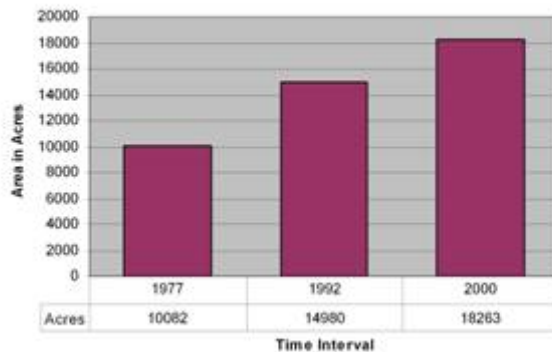


Land Use Trends – Exurban (San Antonio)

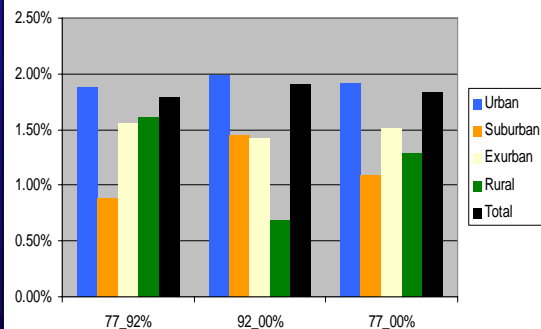
Economic Area 144, San Antonio, TX: LULC Change 1977 - 2000



Urban/Developed LULC Change
GIRAS, 1992 NLCD, and 2000 BOC Urban Areas



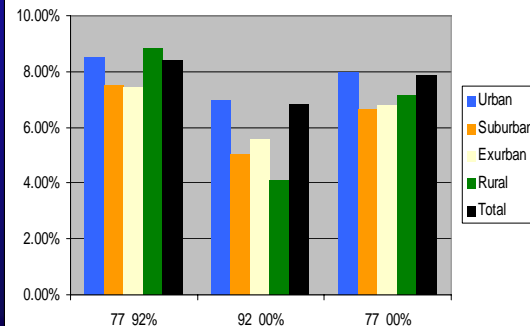
Population Change Rates Between LULC Vintages



EAD Exurban PHCC LULC Transitions Probabilities 1977 to 2000

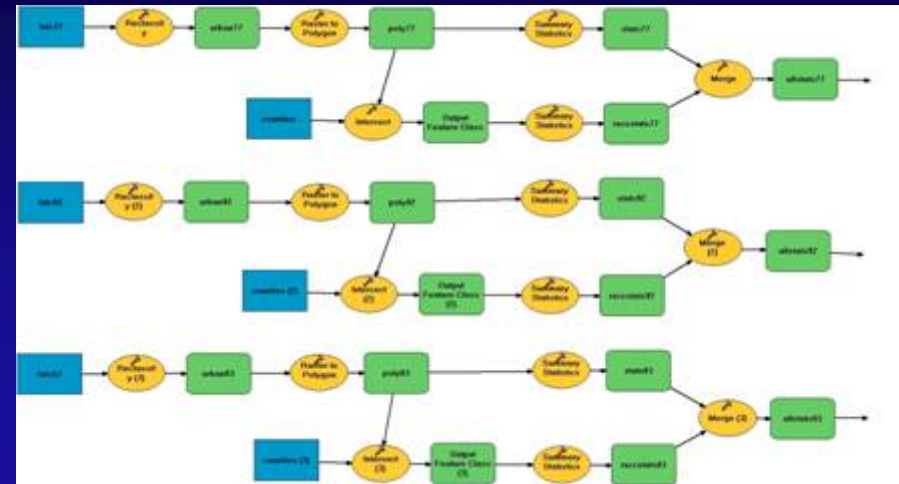
LULC Classes	Water	Urban/Developed	Barren Land	Forest/Woodland	Shrubland	Grassland	Agriculture	Wetlands	Unclassified	Total
Water	0.01506340	0.00018187	0.00040114	0.00066789	0.00040628	0.00019036	0.00004511	0.00011986	0.00000000	0.01663464
Urban/Developed	0.00000000	0.00973689	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00973689
Barren Land	0.00169456	0.00364411	0.00115129	0.00117978	0.00236684	0.00096625	0.00021953	0.00001448	0.00000000	0.01148778
Forest/Woodland	0.00241211	0.00135006	0.00198361	0.25915819	0.11576158	0.11180471	0.00619188	0.00007598	0.00000000	0.49673973
Shrubland	0.00019056	0.00063365	0.00048002	0.01339087	0.05304248	0.04088482	0.00206017	0.00000497	0.00000000	0.11086755
Grassland	0.00080404	0.00133579	0.00089715	0.00635503	0.16142290	0.04296430	0.00142000	0.00003455	0.00000000	0.29523375
Agriculture	0.00003691	0.00006808	0.00027477	0.00755084	0.01631145	0.02028786	0.01033069	0.00000724	0.00000000	0.05781666
Wetlands	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000
Unclassified	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000
Total	0.02037158	0.01699135	0.00482682	0.36890250	0.34835050	0.21972909	0.02029937	0.00015670	0.00000000	1.00000000

GRP Change Rates Between LULC Vintages



Human-Induced Land Transformations

- Developed a statistical module to analyze temporal urban form characteristics
- ArcGIS Model Builder and Excel emulate SLEUTH and FRAGSTATS metrics



Urban Land Metrics

Economic Area 13 – Austin Round Rock, Texas

BUCE Category	Number of Urban Clusters			Urban Edge Length (meters, thousands)			Urban Cluster Area (square meters, thousands)			Average Urban Cluster Size (square meters, thousands)			Urban Aggregation Index		
	1977	1992	2000	1977	1992	2000	1977	1992	2000	1977	1992	2000	1977	1992	2000
All	500	13,436	11,107	2,465	3,564	6,201	690	954	1,356	1,365	71	140	0.026	0.048	0.033
Urban	330	8,073	5,960	1,836	3,470	4,009	571	779	1,340	1,392	97	229	0.026	0.038	0.025
Suburban	99	2,804	2,707	372	1,207	1,264	75	102	120	737	36	40	0.039	0.106	0.081
Rural	54	1,772	1,743	256	827	766	41	60	73	733	34	42	0.040	0.114	0.088
Total	10	922	922	35	256	256	11	14	14	1,063	15	35	0.029	0.132	0.132

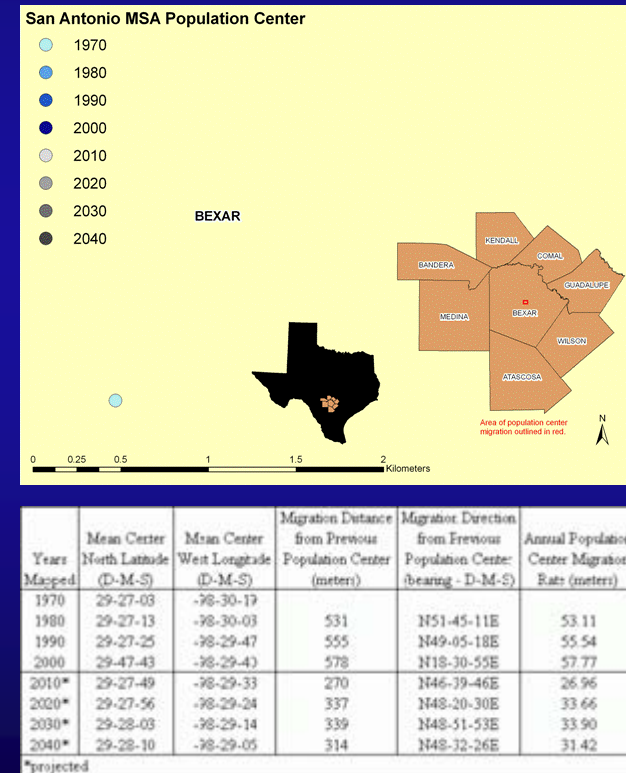
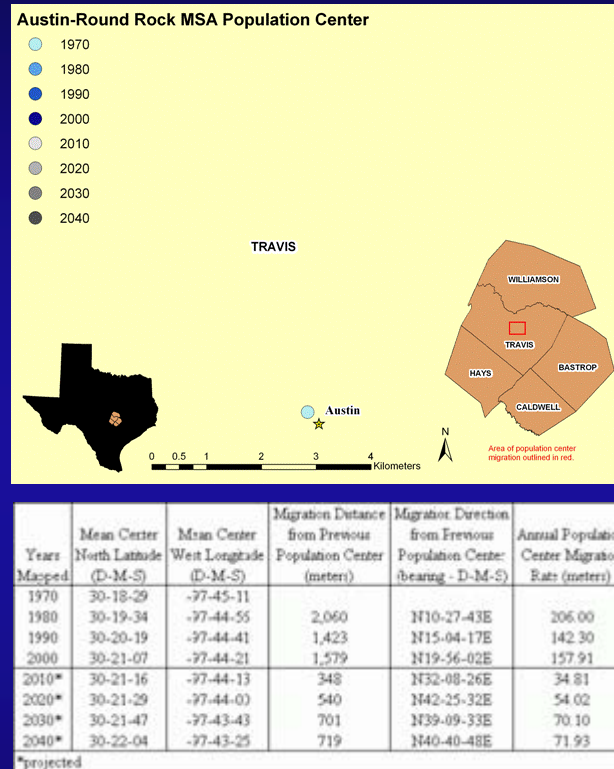
Economic Area 144 – San Antonio, Texas

BUCE Category	Number of Urban Clusters			Urban Edge Length (meters, thousands)			Urban Cluster Area (square meters, thousands)			Average Urban Cluster Size (square meters, thousands)			Urban Aggregation Index		
	1977	1992	2000	1977	1992	2000	1977	1992	2000	1977	1992	2000	1977	1992	2000
All	794	32,144	20,539	4,343	15,817	13,222	1,310	1,807	2,223	1,670	56	81	0.027	0.073	0.048
Urban	522	13,085	9,872	2,625	8,440	6,967	896	1,267	1,693	1,716	97	171	0.024	0.036	0.030
Suburban	120	6,714	6,597	967	3,967	2,931	365	250	275	1,432	34	42	0.042	0.108	0.089
Rural	152	9,446	9,224	691	3,199	3,119	245	273	232	1,703	29	35	0.025	0.097	0.080
Total	26	3,010	3,002	81	1,194	1,194	14	37	37	309	12	32	0.040	0.271	0.271

Urban Aggregation Index values range from 0.0 to 1.0. Smaller values indicate urban land that is more highly aggregated.

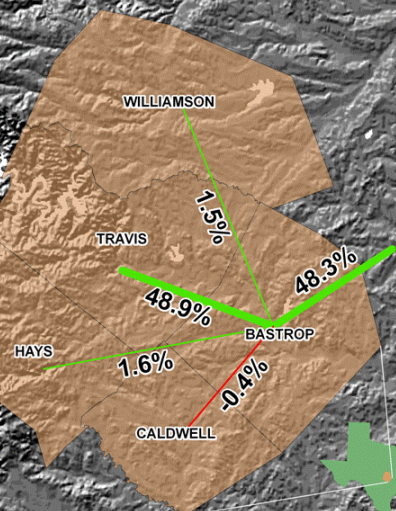
Human Migration - Population

- “Five Themes of Geography”
 - Movement of people, goods, and ideas
- Temporal migration analysis allows monitoring of potential future stress locations



Migration – Urbanized Area & Commuting

Net County to County Migration 1995 - 2000
Bastrop County



Percentages reflect the proportion of net migration (in migration - out migration) to and from the subject county for each county comprising the Austin-Round Rock MSA as well as all other counties in the United States. Green paths indicate a net gain from a county while red paths indicate a net loss to a county.

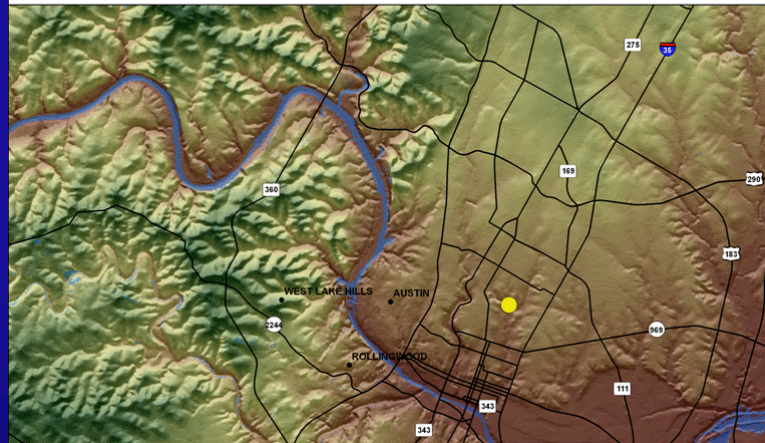


Economic Area 13: Austin-Round Rock, Texas
Human Migration Analysis

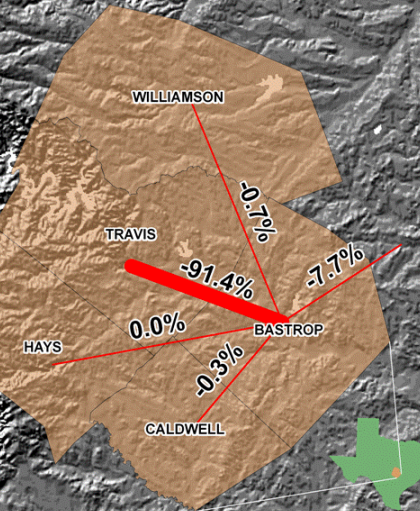


Population Centroids
Urban Area Centroids
Migration extent scale:
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Km

1970



Net Commuting Flow 1990
Bastrop County

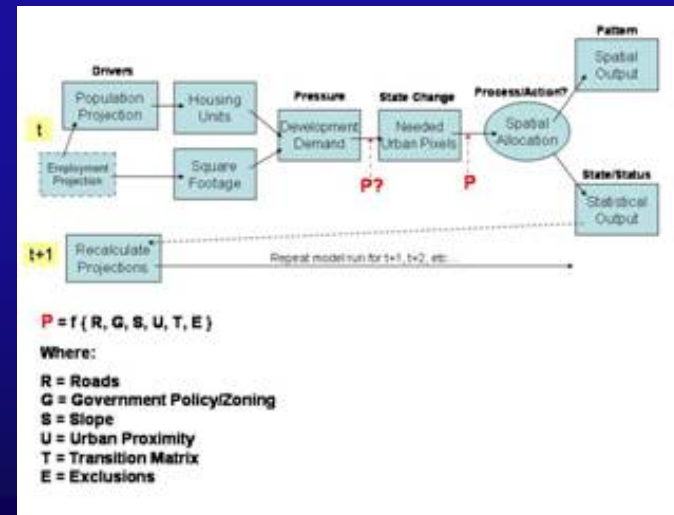
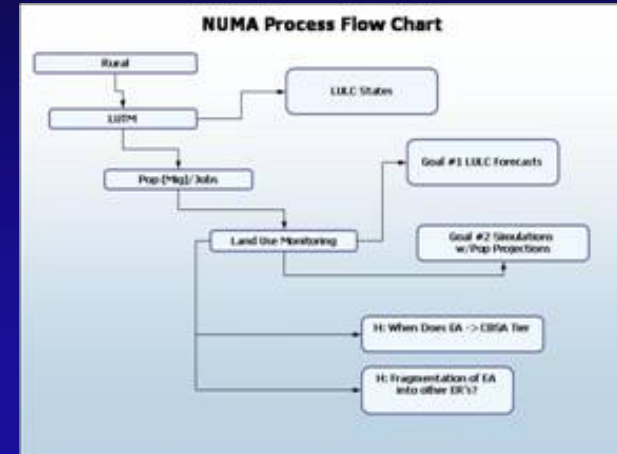


Percentages reflect the proportion of net commuting (commuting to - commuting from) to the subject county for each county comprising the Austin-Round Rock MSA as well as all other counties in the United States. Green paths indicate a net commuting surplus from a county while red paths indicate a net commuting deficit to a county.



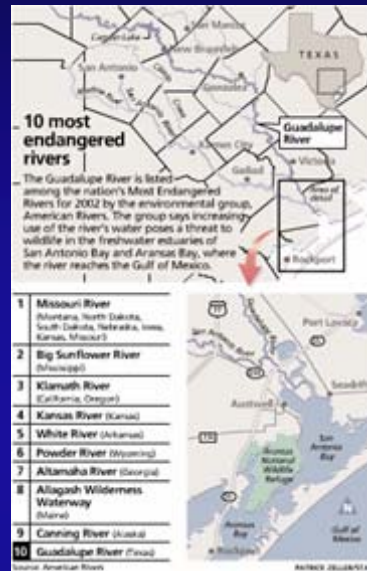
Land Use Modeling

- Investigate estimating and simulating landscape change
- Model would be demand-side driven rather than supply-side (SLEUTH)
- Urbanization as a modeling process follows Logical Data Model architecture



Urbanization Demands and Impacts

- Water diversions to augment ground-water usage
- Austin and San Antonio traffic congestion
- San Antonio ozone levels
- Land use development on Edwards Aquifer recharge areas
- Value of non-agricultural versus agricultural land
- Endangered species habitat



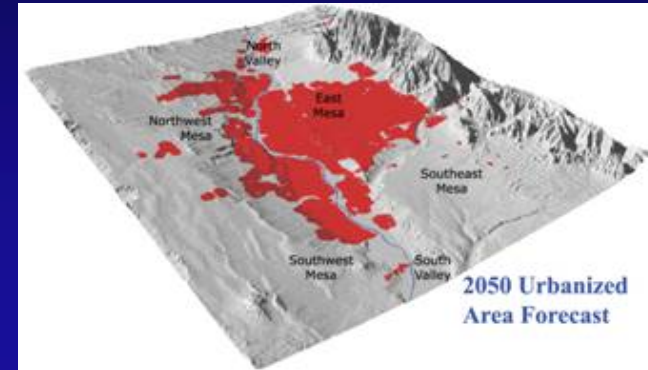
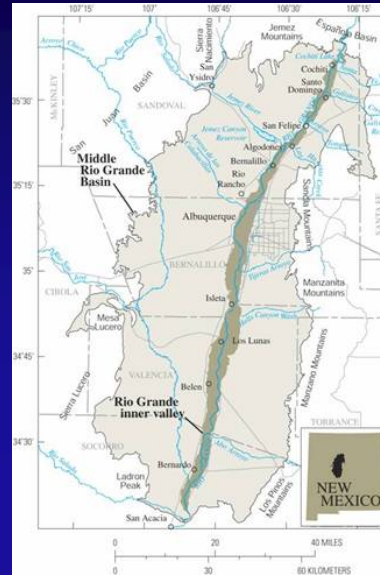
Geography Science Plan

- **Geography for a Changing World**
 - **Strategic Actions**
 - 1.6 – develop and implement a strategy for understanding the urban environment



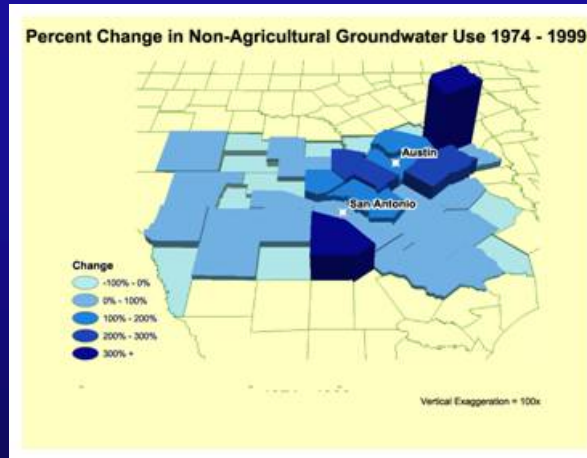
NUMA Cooperators – MRGB Study

- USGS New Mexico Water Science Center
- NM Office of the State Engineer
- NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
- Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments
- University of New Mexico – Earth Data Analysis Center



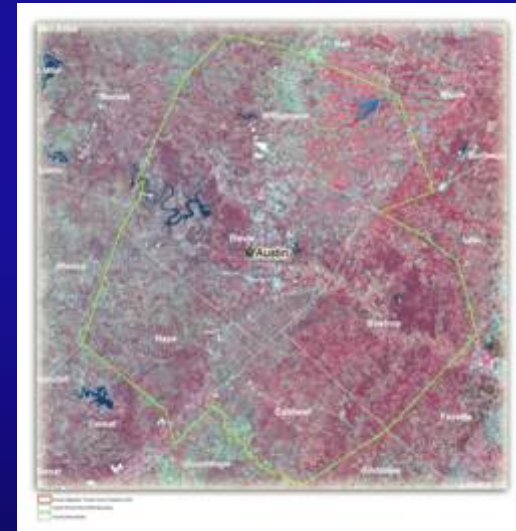
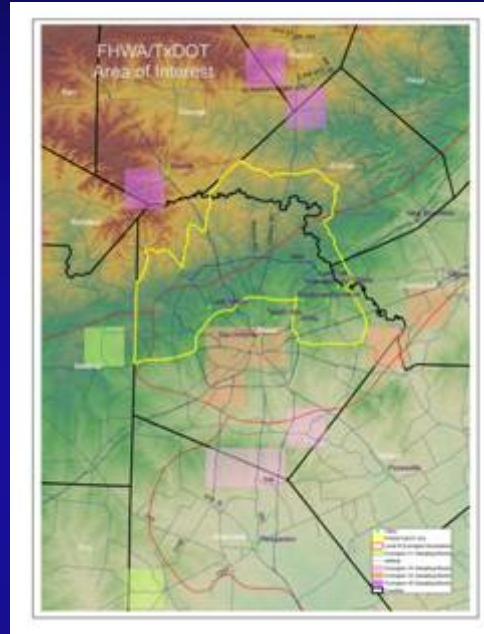
NUMA Partnerships: Edwards-Trinity

- USGS Water Resources Discipline – Austin & San Antonio
- University of Texas at Austin: Community & Regional Planning Department
- Greater Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- USGS Geologic Discipline



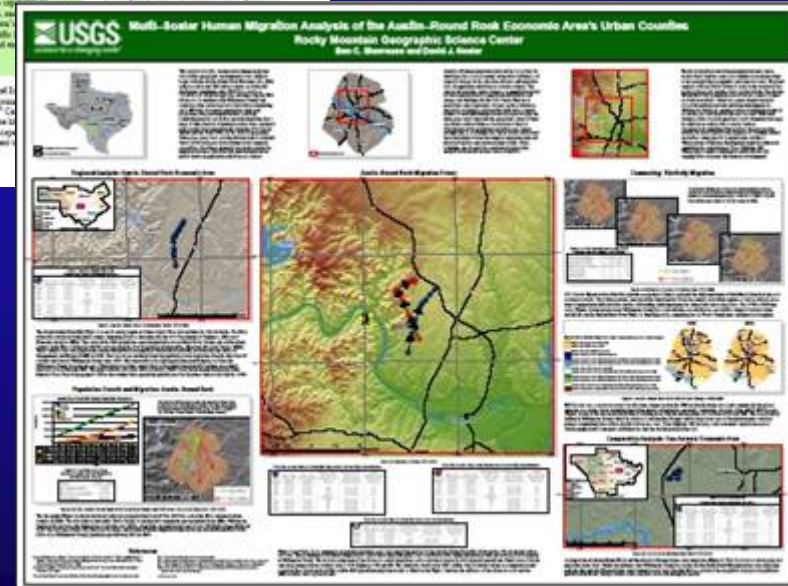
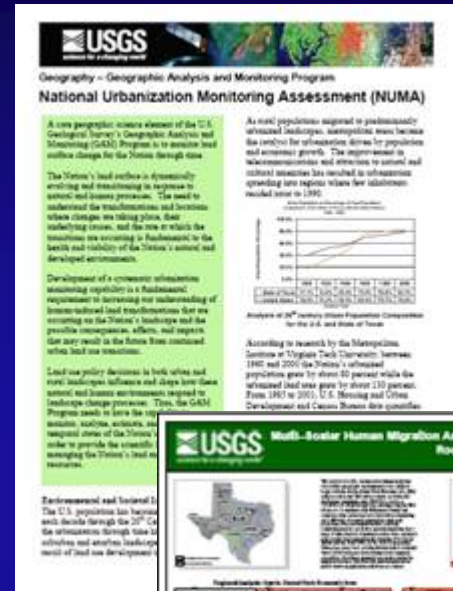
NUMA FY06 Customers/Clients

- **Federal Highways and Texas DOT**
 - San Antonio temporal LULC data distributed for US Highway 181/Loop 1604 Toll Road litigation
- **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**
 - Distributed Austin temporal LULC to assist 2035 Regional Plan's public urban growth visioning efforts



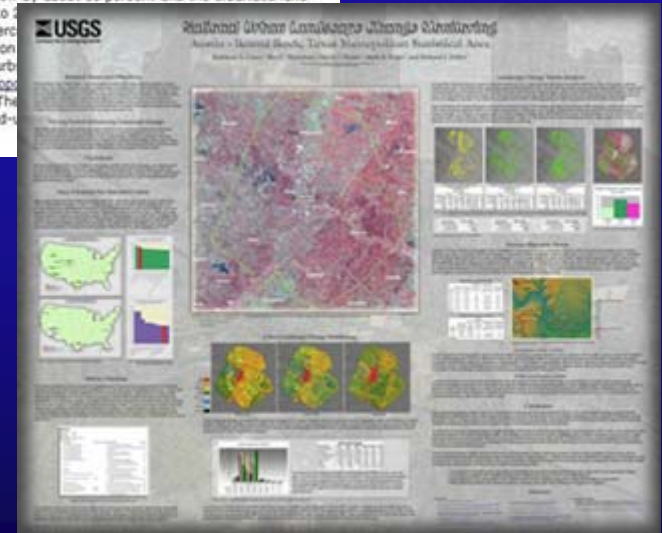
Publications

- USGS NUMA Factsheet (FS-2006-3040)
- Land Use Trend Analysis manuscript
- Human Migration poster



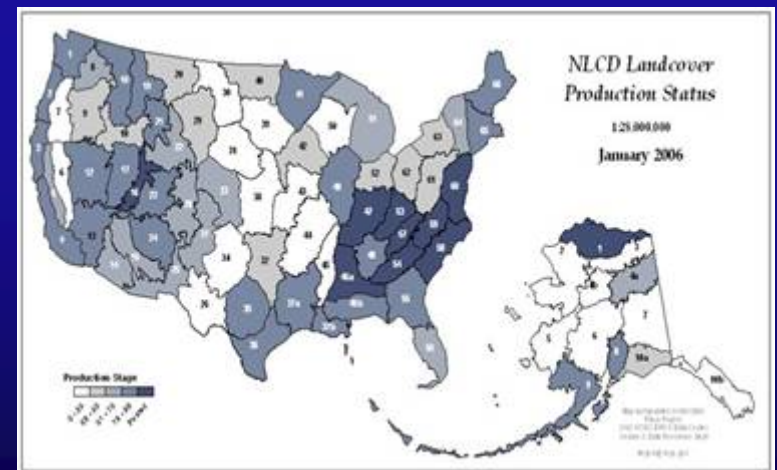
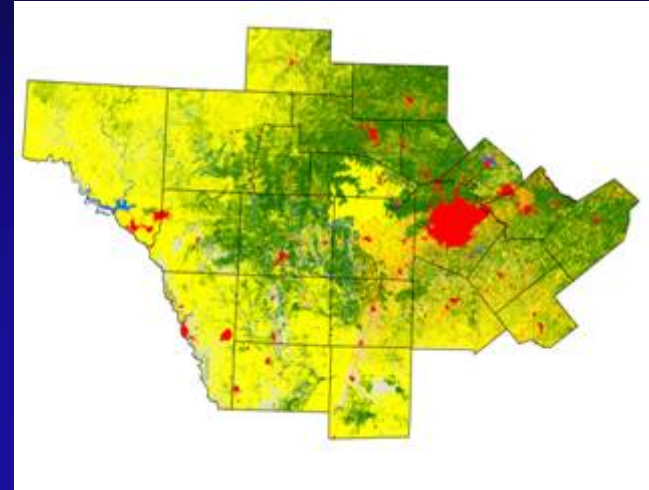
Outreach and Marketing

- Presented “Land Use Change in South Central Texas” at the FHWA Land Use & Transportation Planning Workshop
- USGS assistance provided to GAO “Urbanization, Agriculture, and Endangered Species Habitat” Study
- Developing DRAFT USGS NUMA website visualizing temporal urban landscape change



Land Use Trend Analysis Issues

- **Vintage of Texas GAP LULC**
 - USGS technical peer-review of NUMA temporal LULC data
 - Texas GAP data determined to be 1993 not 2003 as reported in the FGDC Metadata
 - GAP data deleted from NUMA land use trends research methodology
 - Recalculate temporal land use transitions and urban growth monitoring metrics



NUMA Project Timeline

- **3rd Quarter FY06 Plans**
 - **Human-Induced Land Transformations Analysis**
 - Design population analysis module
 - **Land Use Modeling**
 - Generate Austin and San Antonio Economic Areas statistical landscape change estimates
 - Investigate implementing Urbanization Logical Data Model as a physical model for simulating landscape change within Economic Areas



NUMA Project Timeline

- FY07
 - Select (4) Economic Areas based on Gross Regional Product and Population rankings
 - Each Economic Area selected would be from a unique Core-Based Statistical Area tier and Economic Region

Economic Area	1977 to 2003 GRP and POP percent change	National Rank	CBSA Tier	Economic Region
Miami Ft. Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	5.29%	13	Me gr- Metropolitan	South Atlantic
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	5.10%	18	Me gr- Metropolitan	Southwest
Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA	4.94%	24	Me gr- Metropolitan	Far West
Sarasota-Bonadonr Venice, FL	4.90%	2	AAA- Metropolitan	South Atlantic
McAllen-Edinburg Pharr, TX	5.61%	6	AAA- Metropolitan	Southwest
Colorado Springs, CO	5.40%	11	AAA- Metropolitan	Rocky Mountain
Reno-Sparks, NV	5.59%	7	AA- Metropolitan	Far West
Keyserville-Springdale-Eagles, AR-MO	5.52%	8	AA- Metropolitan	Lower Mississippi
Boise City-Nampa, ID	5.02%	21	AA- Metropolitan	Rocky Mountain
Bend-Prineville, OR	5.51%	9	A- Metropolitan	Far West
Flagstaff, AZ	5.27%	14	A- Metropolitan	Southwest
Gainesville, FL	5.05%	19	A- Metropolitan	South Atlantic
Traverse City, MI	4.13%	34	Micro metropolitan	Great Lakes
Alpena, MI	3.93%	44	Micro metropolitan	Great Lakes
Twin Falls, ID	3.87%	69	Micro metropolitan	Rocky Mountain



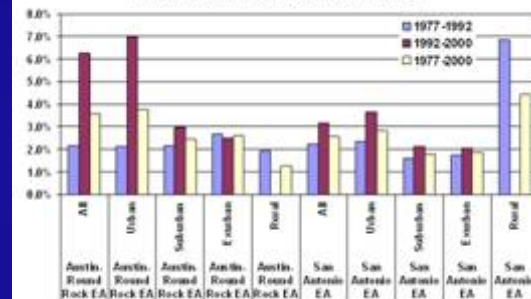
Economic Area Comparative Analysis

- Urban land growth rate exceeding urban population growth
- Urban growth occurring faster in exurban landscapes
- Majority of urban growth spreading into rural landscapes
- Process of urbanization and urban land patterns varies between Economic Areas

Table 3: San Antonio EA

RUCC Category	Growth Rate	Comparison Period		
		A	B	C
All	Urban Population	Lower	Lower	Lower
	Urban Land	Higher	Higher	Higher
Urban	Urban Population	Lower	Lower	Lower
	Urban Land	Higher	Higher	Higher
Suburban	Urban Population	Lower	Lower	Lower
	Urban Land	Higher	Higher	Higher
Exurban	Urban Population	Lower	Lower	Lower
	Urban Land	Higher	Higher	Higher
Rural	Urban Population	Lower	Higher	Lower
	Urban Land	Higher	Lower	Higher

AUSTIN-ROUND ROCK & SAN ANTONIO EAS



Urban Aggregation Index Comparison
Austin-Round Rock & San Antonio EAs

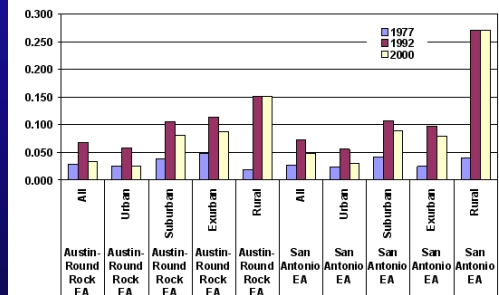


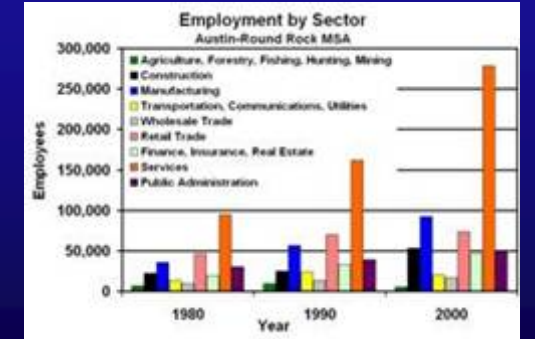
Figure 4

Conclusions – Future Urbanization

- San Antonio and Austin are southern anchors for I-35 Megapolitan corridor
- Peripheral urban expansion via Texas State Highway 130 and Trans-Texas Corridor
- Toyota manufacturing plant will support future economic growth for the San Antonio Economic Area
- Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area ranked #10 nationwide in high-tech growth (1990-1998)
- Austin & San Antonio Metropolitan Statistical Areas' population projected to increase from 2.8M in 2000 to 4.8M by 2040



State narrows path for toll twin to I-35



Additional Information

- dhester@usgs.gov
 - (303) 202-4318
- RMGSC NUMA investigation
 - rockyitr.cr.usgs.gov/rmgsc/main/regionalMonitoring.htm
 - rockyweb.rocky.cr.usgs.gov/numa
- USGS Urbanization research
 - landcover.usgs.gov/urban/intro.asp
 - pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2004/circ1252/
 - landcover.usgs.gov/urban/info/factsht.pdf

